



St Andrew's School News

Covid-19 pupil support

St Andrew's School staff are currently supporting pupils in a number of ways. These pupils fall into three groups.

1. Children of keyworkers (where both parents need to leave the home for work at the same time or where there is only one parent).
2. Children who have been identified by school staff and/or social work colleagues who would benefit from some time at school.
3. The majority of pupils are being supported remotely using the App Seesaw and this is the principal way that we are maintaining contact with our families during this time. As ever please do not hesitate to get in touch on 07810481263 if you are experiencing any difficulty and would like some assistance.

School Routine

All staff at St Andrew's School are here voluntarily because they have a genuine desire to care for our pupils. We are taking all of the precautions that you would expect:

1. Upon arriving at school pupils are met by school staff. Parent's and carers do not enter the building.
2. Staff and pupils have their temperature taken and a log is kept to look for patterns.
3. There are clear routines for handwashing and PPE (gloves/aprons and masks (if required) are used.
4. Staff who develop symptoms (however mild) go into Aberdeen for testing and will not return to school until there is a negative test. If the test is positive then they will self-isolate for 14 days.
5. Any staff or pupils who have been in direct contact with someone who has tested positive for Coronavirus or who live with a person with symptoms will self isolate for 14 days.
6. Pupils are kept to a maximum of 3 per class and spend the majority of the day outside where we can.
7. Staffing is consistent – staff are on rota for 5 mornings and then may be replaced with other staffing where the need arises.

Home Routine

Some pupils are being supported in their own homes as this is more appropriate. Where this is the case the routines are discussed between parents and supporting staff but will include some of the above steps and a rigorous adherence to handwashing and hygiene.

Resources (eg jotters/paint etc)

If you require resources for your child then please get in contact with your class teacher via Seesaw or with me (gina.drummond@aberdeenshire.gov.uk). We do have some spare resources we could get out to you.

Seesaw Support

SeeSaw Support video

Families might find the following video useful for students, and parents, which shows how to link in to Seesaw and use it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g5jG9VoROFs>

Parents encouraged to check Best Start Grant eligibility

Families across Scotland may be able to receive Best Start Grant payments to help ease the financial pressure many may be experiencing due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Best Start Grant payments give financial support to families on lower incomes during the key stages in a child's life.

People can apply for the Pregnancy and Baby Payment and Early Learning Payment now, whilst the application window for School Age Payment opens in June.

Social Security Scotland is calling on families who are receiving a DWP benefit to check if they are entitled to this extra help and encouraging those who are not already in receipt of a DWP benefit to check if they are eligible for financial support. For more information and to apply visit:

www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant

If the pandemic has had an impact on your family's finances and you need further information on what is available you can call free on 0800 028 1456 or visit cas.org.uk for free confidential support.

Inverurie Food Bank

A reminder that the Inverurie Food Bank is available to all families requiring assistance during this difficult time. Please contact them directly for support. In worrying times like these, it is really important that your family has the supplies that they need. Our cluster has an arrangement set up with the Garioch Community Kitchen who really want to help. If you have not already been in contact, and are finding it hard to provide enough food 4

for your family, please get in contact either with Sarah at the Garioch Community Kitchen directly (gariochcommunitykitchen@hotmail.co.uk), or with Dawn Lynch

(DHT at Inverurie Academy – dawn.lynch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk). Where supplies are available, we will endeavour to get you regular food parcels for your family to share. Related to this, all of our schools have supplies of sanitary provision freely available, these are available from Uryside school. This is a difficult time for all, and we really want to support you. Any request for support will be treated with discretion and in confidence.